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AN ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE OF MGNREGS IN INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TELANGANA

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Abstract

Poverty, unemployment and regional disparities are the top-rated barriers to the development of India. Consequently, with the ultimate aim of eradication of extreme poverty and of making villages self-sustaining through productive asset creation and employment generation, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was passed by legislation on August 25, 2005. It was renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) on 2nd October, 2009. The present paper is an attempt to examine the performance of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India in general and Telangana state in particular. This study includes several aspects of performance, which include financial performance, employment generation, demand for work, category-wise coverage of workers, job card information, total work completed etc., both at national and state level. The study used secondary data, which was collected from the MGNREGA website. Simple statistical tools like ratios and growth rates are employed. According to the findings, the budget approved for the scheme for the entire country in 2015-16 was 239.11 crores, and it has since increased to 258.21 crores by 2019-20. There has been no significant change in the number of differently abled people enrolled in the scheme, which has been around 4.7 lakhs in India over the last five years. The number of ongoing works and total works completed in India were reported at 86.94 and 36.18 in 2015-16, and it has gone up to 110.24 and 87.33 by the end of the financial year 2018-19. The total central government release of funds was 35974.64 crores in 2015-16 and it has increased to 62421.90 crores by 2018-19 in India. Out of the total central release under this scheme, 30890.96 crores were given as wages to the workers during 2015-16, and it increased to 47310.07 crores in 2018-19 in India. Telangana has a high number of completed works (1315926 in 2016-17) but a low number (262060 in 2015-16). Likewise, the total central government release for the implementation of the MGNREGS in Telangana was 182485 lakhs in 2015-16 and it has marginally increased to 295817 lakhs in 2018-19. The total expenditure on the scheme's implementation is high at 120.07 crores in 2015-16 and it is low at 87.75 crores in 2016-17. Therefore, the study suggested the governments at different levels enhance financial allocations and monitor the work completion under the scheme for the successful utilization of resources under the scheme.

Keywords: MGNREGS, Financial Performance, Works Completed, Job Cards, Telangana, India.

1.0 Introduction

The Indian government has made a number of steps to address the issue of poverty. Wage employment programs, rural housing projects, and a poverty alleviation fund are all examples of poverty alleviation programs. From time to time, public distribution systems have been established. Some were only partially effective in combating poverty. Others, on the other hand, had serious problems in their execution. The government sponsored poverty extermination programmes includes National Rural Employment Program (NREP), the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program (RLEGP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, (JGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food for Work Program (NFFWP). The Countrywide Rural Employment Generation Survey (NREGS 2005) was a national survey of rural employment generation schemes. However, these programs were unable to deliver social services. As a result, on August 25, 2005, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was enacted into law. On October 2, 2009, it was renamed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The majority of India's population lives in rural areas. The Indian government has announced a slew of initiatives aimed at lifting the poor in rural areas out of poverty. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a ground-breaking program that guarantees a minimum of 100 days of employment to rural and tribal people whose livelihood is exclusively dependent on daily earnings. Family members above the age of 18 who live in the same village must apply for an employment card in order to participate in this scheme. A unique work card is given to each micro household. They must find a job within 15 days of registering, or else get unemployment benefits.

Working under the plan is easy in the sense that there are no preconditions; nonetheless, the procedure of getting employment is a two-stage process. The first stage is enrolling, during which each eligible family will receive a job-card, which serves as a passport to work under the MGNREGA. A single card will be provided to each home. Asking for/applying for a job is the second phase. Any member (male or female) seeking a job under the program may be supplied with work within 15 days of submitting an



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application. As a result, it is self-evident that the problem of employment under the system must be evaluated in terms of both job-card issuance and the number of labor-days created. However, it should be remembered that simply having a job card does not ensure employment; instead, the family/household must apply for work, and only then will the question of job security arise. The issuing of employment cards, on the other hand, does not imply that the family would agree to work under the MGNREGS; it is apparent that they will not, if a viable alternative exists (Natesan & Marathe, 2017; Sugapriyan & Prakasam, 2015).

2.0 Review of Literature

Bhat, Hussain, and Yasmin (2021) investigated the performance of MGNREGS in Jammu and Kashmir using secondary sources of data and empirical data analysis using basic statistical tools such as percentage and graphs analysis of various variables in the study. The study found that since the commencement of MGNREGA, the number of families receiving work cards has increased significantly, from 4.97 lakh in 2008-09 to 12.53 lakh in 2017-18. The number of households seeking employment and the level of employment in the state have both increased, with the number of person days of employment generated rising from 32.3 to 84.61 lakhs, and the total number of person days of employment provided by SCs, STs, and others rising from 1.7, 7.5, and 23.05 lakhs to 4.09, 17.27, and 63.25 lakhs, respectively. Although the share of employment of SCs, STs, and women in total employment has increased over time, there are still a large number of SCs and STs who have not yet registered under MGNREGA, and the increase in women participation is still far below the 33 percent share stipulated in the Act's guidelines.

According to Chakraborty and Kumar (2018), the MGNREGA scheme provides employment to approximately 50 million homes per year, accounting for more than one-third of rural India's households. From 2006–07 to 2015–16, the total number of people employed by the program was over 19 billion. Women, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 27, 22, and 48% of total employment produced, respectively. Beneficiary households have averaged 45 days of employment per year, out of the guaranteed 100 days of employment per family under the MGNREGA Act. Until the middle of 2015, a total of 3064 billion (about USD 46 billion) had been spent on these programs. Water management and watershed-related construction, village-level road development, and ecological conservation are among the most recent MGNREGA projects. In effect, this created a micro-level mechanism to put adaptation in the hands of local communities, allowing them to better manage the risks and uncertainty caused by climate change. Because of the periodic off-seasons in farming and other economic shocks, the MGNREGA scheme has offered some measure of livelihood security to rural villages in crisis situations when finding work elsewhere becomes difficult. The MGNREGA scheme has been successful in providing food security to rural people by increasing their purchasing power. To ensure smooth access to employment in the rural economy, the state administration and government actions can distribute MGNREGA events more frequently throughout the agricultural off-season, ensuring rural poor employment security throughout the year.

According to Vasu (2018), the first 30 years of investigation into employment generation schemes in rural parts of India communicated few significant instructions to the government, such as the "Rural Manpower Programme," which imparted the lesson of monetary management, the "Crash Scheme for Rural Employment," which imparted the lesson of development for outcomes, and a "Pilot Intensive Rural Employment," which imparted the lesson of development for outcomes etc.

According to Erramani and Begari (2018), rural unemployment is one of India's major problems. The lack of opportunities for employment in rural areas prompted individuals to migrate to urban areas. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was introduced in 2005 by the Indian Union government in order to address this issue, provide jobs, and reduce rural migration. The MGNREGA's main goal is to give 100 days of guaranteed work in rural areas. The authors of the report want to look at how the program was presented in Andhra Pradesh from 2006 to 2011. This research was based on secondary data sources that were gathered from a variety of public sources.

Shroff and Kajale (2018) In terms of its socio-economic implications in rural India, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which has been in place since 2006, is considered a landmark initiative in India. The goal of this initiative is to provide a safety net for the poor and marginalized in rural areas by creating jobs and building long-term resources and assets. During the early 1970s drought, Maharashtra was the first state to implement the employment guarantee system (EGS) for rural poor people. Both the EGS and MGNREGS programs have been in existence and are being used in Maharashtra state since 2006. This will allow them to compare and contrast the performance of the two strategies on the ground. In this section, the writers examine the employment and assets generated in Maharashtra under outdated EGS and MGNREGS. The EGS and MGNREGS have been successful in creating jobs in the state, but they have not developed sufficient long-term and high-quality assets to have a negative impact on agricultural production. In Maharashtra, the annual level of employment generated by MGNREGS in the last few years was significantly lower than that generated under EGS prior to 2005–06. In Maharashtra, there are significant practical obstacles in implementing the scheme. There is a need to track down new and relevant categories of work as well as advanced



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methods of implementing the plan, as well as to provide adequate methodological assistance to the gram panchayats. It would be preferable if the creation of jobs under the systems also resulted in the creation of long-term assets and well-organized local management of water and other natural resources, so increasing the agrarian sector's overall production.

According to Bhowmik, Bose, Goswami, and Chouhan (2018), the MGNREGA is a leading government of India scheme that has been implemented in all states and districts of the Indian union since 2009, with the dual goals of creating jobs and creative assets in rural India. Tripura, a smaller northeastern state, has successfully implemented the MGNREGA scheme and achieved notable success. They examine the scheme's impact on contributing households in Tripura's Dhalai district. In addition to gathering secondary data, a structured questionnaire was used to obtain primary data from 20 houses. MGNREGS has had a positive influence on the livelihoods of participating poor and marginal households, according to this study. The strategy has resulted in a significant increase in the asset base on income guarantee. Due to the lowering trend in ST allocation percentages in the study communities, it also discovers more work opportunities for the unreserved classes. However, due to recent changes in the scheme's operational framework, members are concerned about the scheme's future and the security of their jobs.

According to Saha (2018), rural safety nets are critical components of a developing economy like India's growing economy. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MGNREGP) is one of the vast Indian subcontinent's most well-planned safety nets. In 2005, the Union Government adopted the NREGA Act, which was eventually renamed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2009. This Act was the catalyst for the establishment of MGNREGS on February 2, 2006. It was carried out in a stage-by-stage manner. The first phase housed 200 of the country's most impoverished districts, while the second phase added 130 more, and the third phase covered the country's remaining rural districts. MGNREGS has become a supporter of Indian rural development due to its abundance and requirements. This is a landmark program of the Indian Union Government, which provides work opportunities to job seekers using a merit-based system. However, while the initial goal of this arrangement was to provide employment to unemployed rural youngsters, the policy's approach to long-term sustainability is hidden. The majority of the credit has been given to the program's job creation component, as this was the Act's primary consideration. In the fiscal year 2015-2016, the state of West Bengal created 286497320 employment days, employing 9157780 MGNREGS workers. The researchers haven't given much thought to this aspect of the MGNREGS-based production of common property properties. The excellence and long-term viability of rural Common Property Resources (CPRs) are critical for sustaining rural livelihoods. The researchers in this work make an empirical attempt to see the realities of MGNREGS-created CPRs. This research uses experiential observation to analyze the gap between theoretical perception and real-world application.

According to Mukherjee and Sinha (2013), the Indian government has recently adopted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) to supplement the poor's income by giving employment for a positive number of labor days every year. They examined the impact of the NREGA system on (1) rural labor markets, (2) poor household income levels, and (3) total agrarian production in this research paper, using a simple theoretical framework. They demonstrated that the impoverished may exhibit a backward-bending labor supply curve in specific circumstances, resulting in a simultaneous fall in agrarian productivity. Even if NREGA initiatives result in a reasonable increase in agrarian output, this adverse production consequence can occur. Some empirical evidence supports their suspicions, and data on food prices tends to support their discovery to some extent.

According to Malla (2014), research on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act's implementation across India has omitted Kashmir, and what little research there is is incongruent with official figures. These findings look at how the endorsed figures relate to the policy's impact on the state's socio-economic shortcomings. The sample area's implications are mostly rooted in a shaky backdrop plan and a corruptible official gadget, which are not taken into account by authorized numbers. Analysis of ground-level data, rather than official statistics alone, is required to fully comprehend the impacts of such systems.

According to Sugapriyan and Prakasam (2015), the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is one of the governments of India's programs. Keeping in mind that "the soul of India lives in its villages," the majority of people in the rural areas of the country rely on unskilled physical labor to survive. Many of the studies were done purely for the purpose of disapproving the program's beneficial and harmful impacts. All of the works have limitations, such as a lack of intelligent forecasting and the use of the proper study approach, which drives them to pursue this unique scheme. Using the Data Mining Method and the review of previous year's statistics data provided by the government, this endeavor examines the success of MGNREGA in Kanchipuram District. The goal of this initiative is to evaluate the program's performance and accomplishments.

Rao and Raju (2015) looked at how the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme can help combat unemployment and poverty alleviation at the same time. Poverty and unemployment are the two major issues confronting the world today. These issues affect not



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just developing countries but also developed countries. MGNREGA is India's largest and most ambitious social safety net and public works program. The primary purpose of this research is to evaluate MGNREGP's success in changing rural livelihood designs in Andhra Pradesh (2011-2015). From 2006-07 to 2011-12, the NREGA's total household employment provision increased from 2174798 lakhs in 2006-07 to 6192107 lakhs in 2010-11, then declined to 4998053 lakhs in 2011-12. SC and ST participation in MGNREGA from 2006-07 to 2011-12, with the SC families' proportion of total household employment increasing from 625053 in 2006-07 to 1328473 in 2011-12. According to the wage employment provided to the number of households between 2011 and 2015, the common of wage employment provided to 3427411 families in 2013-14. In 2014-15, the maximum payment generated by three-day employment was 75.81 percent; in 2012-13, it was 68.39 percent; in 2013-14, it was 62.98 percent; and in 2011-12, it was 15.29 percent.

Chakraborty (2006) conducted a first review based on secondary data and concluded that NREGA has no flaws in terms of economics. Its distribution is just modestly better than what the administration had previously distributed on a variety of rural job programmes. It is still a demand-driven program, and in several Indian states, it has fallen far short of satisfying demand. State-by-state differences in fund consumption ratios are also significant. She stated that there is a critical need for collaboration at all levels of government.

According to the CAG's 2007 study, "Performance Audit of Implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA)," there are significant deficiencies in NREGA implementation. It summarizes the lack of adequate administrative and mechanical manpower at the block and Gram Panchayat levels; financial administration and tracking schemes were deficient, with numerous examples of change or misutilization; postponement in the allocation of state share; wage payment interruptions; and the absence of work.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) produced a document titled "Performance Audit of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Implementation" in 2008. (NREGA). Following the Ministry of Rural Development's request, the CAG began an assessment in 2006 to determine how effectively states were transitioning from past paid employment programs to the MGNREGA. The audit was conducted in 26 states, using a sample of 25% of MGNREGA districts from each state. The audit was conducted during the early stages of the act, and the majority of the findings were procedure violations in relation to the National Guidelines. It's worth noting that many states responded to the CAG's findings by presenting plans to eliminate technical errors and promote openness in the scheme's execution.

The NREGA Processes in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were calculated by the Centre for Education and Research Development in 2010. A study was directed by CERD to better understand MGNREGA's methods, events, and effects. The inquiry was launched to assess not only MGNREGA's help and issues in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, but also to examine present management practices for potential duplication in other states and districts with similar circumstances. Chittoor and Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh, and Shahdol and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh, were the study districts. The inquiry analyzed both secondary data from MIS and field-level data gathered through surveys, focus group talks, case studies, and other methods. The study gives broad recommendations on procedures and events that might be implemented in both states to improve efficiency. A thorny technique for authorizing vulnerable groups may need to be shadowed both in terms of raising awareness and spreading outreach in exchange for contributions. The systems of mobile musters and muster roll upkeep in Andhra Pradesh, as well as the weekly sequence of opening and closing musters, the Fixed Daily Action Schedule in producing pay-orders/weekly cycle system, and the scheme of wage cum withdrawal slips, are all reproducible. The public-private sector may need to be rediscovered and revitalized, particularly in order to attract wage seekers and crowds.

Datar (2007) attributed MGNREGS' failure in Maharashtra to a lack of interest among the political and administrative elites in NREGA due to its decentralized, transparent, and accountable nature. According to the writers, officials were providing last-minute relief to drought-stricken agriculturalists and landless laborers by subjectively approving projects. Administrators on a contract basis have yet to be chosen in many of the districts. When poor people put pressure on GPs, CEOs, and BDOs, NREGA will thrive in the state.

Rajasthan was significantly ahead of other states in producing and delivering jobs under the NREGA, according to authorized information and entirely accurate autonomous reports, according to Dre'ze and Siddhartha (2007). This is due to the state's implementation of MGNREGA's "transparent safeguards." However, the bad news is that in certain GPs, individuals are paid significantly less than the minimum wage.



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Dre'ze and Oldiges (2007) were concerned about the MGNREGA website because of its oddly spread or mixed content, as well as its questionable data. After reviewing the data, they concluded that the employment generated through NREGA (90 crore person-days in 2006-07) was far greater than that generated under the NFFWP and SGRY in prior years. The authors analyzed government data and found that the southern and western states fared better than the majority of the northern states. They also argue that women's participation in MGNREGS contributes to social change. When it comes to pay rates, the authors believe that an argument should be made on whether state-specific rates or national standards should be accepted. The authors believe that MGNREGA has improved economic security and that its implementation has resulted in higher rural salaries, less migration, the construction of productive resources, and women gaining more economic freedom, among other things. They also indicated that bribery has decreased based on their experiences in Surguja and Korea.

According to Ambastha, Shankar, and Shah (2008), MGNREGA must focus on increasing agricultural productivity in India's most backward districts in order to fully realize its promise. Previously, this might have resulted in the creation of related livelihoods based on water security. This is the only way to envisage the size of the work guarantee shrinking over time. Some of the improvements suggested by the authors for a successful implementation of MGNREGS include: full-time specialists devoted to MGNREGA at all stages; full-time specialists devoted to MGNREGA at all stages; full-time specialists devoted to MGNREGA at all stages; and full-time specialists devoted to MGNREGA at all stages. Intensive efforts at the Gram Panchayat level to build up a large cadre of fully trained "barefoot professionals"; Providing adequate resources and establishing systems for continuous monitoring and assessment at each stage of the scheme to ensure quality; and mandating a role for civil society organizations to serve as support interventions for Panchayati Raj Organizations in MGNREGA planning, application, and societal audit.

Jha, Gaiha, and Sankar (2008) used econometric exercises to assess the cost-effectiveness of social protection in three Indian states, focusing on the engagement of landless, small, marginal, and medium growers. The results were in contradiction to those of CAG and others. According to them, a little more than one-fifth of households that worked for 90 days or more in 2007 were involved. Farming labor and the self-employed in non-agriculture rely on MGNREGS to supplement their income, while MGNREGS has become the backbone of income for other labor and self-employed in farming classes. MGNREGS appears to have been properly targeted by asset class, as the contribution of dispossessed labor was higher and lasted longer. Among the "others," the percentage of ST involvement was the highest, while the number of days worked was the highest. MGNREGS' performance was uniformly ineffective in various states, confirming **(Dreze, 2007; and Roy et al., 2008)**.

In his study article, Mehrotra (2008) examines the performance of MGNREGS based on secondary data, highlighting its strengths, advantages, and drawbacks, as well as making certain hypotheses about MGNREGA's competence.

Rao and Durgaprasad (2008) looked at the findings of ten states' investigations. According to their research, backward states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which together account for 37% of the rural poor, have not benefited adequately from MGNREGS, whereas Chhattisgarh and MP might fully benefit from MGNREGS to increase livelihood security. In Andhra Pradesh, the share of employment held by SCs and STs was quite low, with OBC households receiving more MGNREGA jobs. In terms of pay revenue, the inequalities in average wage earnings were due to differences in minimum wages and low attendance under the piece rate structure. With and without MGNREGS, the Poverty Gap Index (PGI) revealed that most worker households were closer to poverty after participating in MGNREGA. The impact of asset quality, as well as a rise in salaries for unskilled workers, would determine the likely flow of benefits in reducing rural poverty. This research shows that MGNREGA is developing in a positive and significant direction, but it still needs to establish a demand-driven model.

The way the CAG completed the audit was scrutinized by Siddhartha and **Vanaik (2008)**. The CAG fails to investigate the impact of MGNREGA on employees' life, the superiority of assets created, poverty, women's empowerment, or agrarian productivity. They are also practical in that the CAG has not considered the state-specific NREGS circulars and recommendations in its deliberations. The authors concluded that the CAG means were reproduced from very different regions, resulting in unequal MGNREGS performance, and that these means should not be used as standards for judging the success and feasibility of a system in a single state. They valued the CAG's unique and valuable endorsements for effective NREGS implementation in various states.

In research, the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (2009) found that, despite a high demand for labor, employment is difficult to come by, and unemployment benefits are not paid in the Maharashtra study region. Despite the fact that the other works were also recognized by GPs, the Panchayat Simitis and Zilla Parishads only allowed the excavating of ponds because these works (former) had to pay a massive amount of royalty charges to the government for soil removal (22.2 percent to 37.15 percent of the total budget). IHD (2009) conducted a study in three states: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, and found that provincial differences in



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program performance were due to differences in local level administration and PRI institutional and distribution capacities, civil society armament, state administrative readiness, and political willpower. Official and knowledge gaps were immediately identified in terms of technical shortcomings, lack of awareness at all levels, operational inadequacies such as a lack of work guidelines, changing interpretations of rules and procedures, and a lack of institutional capacities at all stages.

The survey results were described by Khera and Nandini (2009), who stated that the female labor workforce participation rate is high in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, but low in Uttar Pradesh, which was roughly in line with official data. They claimed that women's work opportunities in the private labor market are flawed, inconsistent, underpaid, and even dangerous. It typically includes migration, which brings with it a slew of new issues. Employed conditions in the private labor market are frequently exceedingly demanding and unfair, in addition to unseen social barriers. As a result, female employees were heavily involved in various states.

In Andhra Pradesh, Ritesh and Vutukuru (2009) analyzed the impact of social audits and reimbursement procedures on the size of the scheme. They compared the performance of MGNREGS Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in 2007-08 and 2008-09, finding a significant increase in the scheme's size in terms of person-days of employment in Andhra Pradesh, and recommending that the Andhra Pradesh Societal Audit model be replicated elsewhere in the country.

Chandranayak et al. (2010) conducted research in Orissa to examine and assess MGNREGA procedures and measures. The econometric findings suggest that, in all other situations, women are more likely to show interest in MGNREGS projects. The demand for MGNREGS work was shown to be positively and significantly (at a level of 5%) linked to households belonging to the SC group. The scientists concluded that awareness levels are mixed to some extent and are strongly linked to access to work cards and the size of per capita landholdings. The study's projected result in Orissa was that laborers received their wages within a fortnight, with a large portion of the wage given even within a week, typically through their bank accounts. According to the respondents, there has been a significant increase in work opportunities and a significant decrease in involuntary migration. The NREGS-nominated projects typically resulted in tangible assets for the community as a whole, as well as the creation of necessary job opportunities.

According to Deepak and Sovna (2010), Maharashtra had a bad presentation in terms of issuing employment job cards to the specified families, low employment creation (far below 30 days), and payment of salaries below the least wage. The work done under MGNREGA was primarily focused on irrigation and water conservation, despite the fact that irrigation was the state's biggest challenge. They advised that the employment guarantee program be linked to other community service programs in order to improve workforce skills.

Leelavathi and K H Rao (2010) evaluated the success of MGNREGS A. P with 23 indicators based on the primary field survey results of 2006-07 in four districts of Andhra Pradesh. In terms of performance, there were variances between districts. MGNREGS' performance in Andhra Pradesh was rated as reasonable with a general efficiency score of 43.68 percent.

Dey and Bedi (2010) conducted a survey in West Bengal's Bhirbhum district, which revealed widespread awareness of the 100-day employment guarantee scheme. However, just 20% of officially guaranteed jobs were produced in 2008-09, and only 3 to 4 days of employment were available during the farming downturn.

3.0 Data and Methodology

The present study used secondary data on several variables utilized in this study to examine the performance of MGNREGS in India in general and Telangana state in particular. The required secondary data was compiled from the MGNREGA website and Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Telangana State. The data spans from 2015 to 2019. Simple statistical tools like percentages and ratios were employed.

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Job Card Information in India

The aim of this section is to analyse the Job Card Information under the MGNREGS at different levels. Which includes the total number of job cards issued, total number of workers included in this scheme, total number of active cards, total number of workers in the scheme, percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled workers against the active workers in the scheme as on April, 2019 for Telangana and India's data have also analysed table 4.1.



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Job Card Information under the MGNREGS	Total No. of Job Cards issued [In Cr]	Total No. of Workers [In Cr]	Total No. of Active Job Cards [In Cr]	Total No. of Active Workers [In Cr]	SC worker against active workers [%]	ST worker against active workers [%]
India	13.1	25.7	7.37	11.38	19.55	16.33
Telangana	54.48	117.26	31.18	56.02	16.59	12.93

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Note: Numbers related to India are in crore, Telangana are lakhs.

The above table 4.1 provides us with detailed information on the job cards issued by the government at various levels. The total number of job cards issued in India is 13.1 crore, out of which the active job cards are 7.37 crore only. The total number of people received is not participating in MGNREGA work. The total number of workers participating in the scheme is 25.7 crores, out of which 19.55 percent are SCs and the STs' share is 16.33 percent. In the state of Telangana, the total number of job cards issued in the entire India is 54.48 lakhs, out of which the active job cards are 31.18 lakhs. Similarly, the total number of workers participating in the scheme is 1.17 crores, out of which 16.59 percent crores are SCs and the STs' share is 12.93 percent.

4.2 Progress of MGNREGS in India

Under this heading, the progress of the scheme is assessed based on the aspects of the approved labor budget for the scheme, person-days generated so far, SC and ST community people receiving the work in the scheme, women person days out of the total person days, average wage per day for the person, total households completed the 100 days' work under the scheme, total households worked in the scheme, total individuals worked and participation of differently abled persons in the scheme at India level.

Year	Approved labor Budget	person-days Generated so far	SC person days % as of total person days	ST person days % as of total person days	Women person days out of Total (%)	Average Wage rate per day per person (Rs.)	Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	Total Households Worked	Total Individuals Worked	Differently abled persons worked
2015-2016	239.11	235.15	22.29	17.80	55.26	154.08	48,47,975	4.81	7.23	4,59,597
2016-2017	220.93	235.65	21.32	17.62	56.16	161.65	39,91,202	5.12	7.67	4,71,819
2017-2018	231.31	233.74	21.56	17.49	53.53	169.44	29,55,152	5.12	7.59	4,72,218
2018-2019	256.56	267.78	20.66	17.40	54.53	179.13	51,89,818	5.27	7.78	4,60,180
2019-2020	258.21	3.69	17.47	17.20	56.41	181.83	20,00,000	0.47	0.60	47808.00

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Table 4.2 reveals the progress of MGNREGA in its basic components, which includes that the budget approved for the scheme during 2015-16 was 239.11 crore, and it has increased to 258.21 crores by 2019-20 in India. There has been a marginal increase in the budget approvals of the scheme during the last five financial years. The number of person-days generated in the scheme is almost the same from 2015-16 to 2017-18, which is around 234 days, and it has increased to 267.78 by 2018-19. There is a marginal increase in the average wages received under the scheme by the workers, i.e., from 154.08 in 2015-16 to 181.83 in the 2019-20 financial year. There has been no significant change in the number of differently abled people enrolled in the scheme, which has been around 4.7 lakhs in India over the last five years.



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4.3 Work Progress under MGNREGS in India

The work undertaken in this programme has been analysed based on the aspects related to the number of GPs with nil expenditure, total number of works taken up, the number of ongoing works in the scheme, number of works completed so far, percentage of normal expenditure and percentage of category B workers worked under the scheme at India level.

Year	Number of GPs with NIL exp	Total No. of Works Taken up	Number of Ongoing Works	Number of Completed Works	% Of NRM Exp	% Of Category B Works
2015-16	39469.00	123.12	86.94	36.18	59.71	33.80
2016-17	19451.00	162.54	97.08	65.46	60.10	51.41
2017-18	11789.00	185.56	122.93	62.63	55.01	55.58
2018-19	10383.00	197.58	110.24	87.33	58.49	65.92
2019-20	1,41,550	110.01	108.33	1.67	66.13	63.55

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The above table 4.3 describes the progress of the work under the MGNREGS by taking the last five years of data on various aspects of the work undertaken in the scheme. The number of Gram Panchayaths with nil expenditure on the MGNREGA scheme was recorded at 39469 in 2015-16 and it increased to 1,41,550 GPs by the year 2019-20. The number of works taken up in the scheme so far has fluctuated from 2015-16 to 2019-20, from 123.12 to 110.01.

The number of ongoing works and total works completed has reported 86.94 and 36.18 in 2015-16 and it has gone up to 110.24 and 87.33 by the end of the financial year 2018-19. The proportion of NRM spending has risen from 59.71 percent in 2015-16 to 66.13 percent in 2019-20. The percentage of category B work done in this scheme has also marginally increased from 33.80 percent in 2015-16 to 63.55 percent in 2019-20.

4.4 Financial Performance of MGNREGS in India

The financial performance of the scheme has been discussed based on several aspects of MGNREGS. They are the total central release of expenditure, total availability of expenditure, percent of resources utilized, wages provided under the scheme, total administration expenditure in the scheme, and percentage of administration expenditure in total expenditure on MGNREGS at the national level.

Year	Total center release	Total Availability	Total Exp [In Cr	Percentage Utilization	Wages	Material (%)	Total Adm Expenditure	Admin Exp (%)
2015-2016	35974.64	43380.72	44002.59	101.43	30890.96	25.81	2363.36	5.37
2016-2017	47411.72	57386.67	58062.92	101.18	40750.72	26.15	2883.97	4.97
2017-2018	55659.93	64985.89	63649.48	97.94	43128.49	29.56	2420.31	3.80
2018-2019	62421.90	69522.78	69726.79	100.29	47310.07	29.13	2972.75	4.26
2019-2020	13133.02	13133.55	1616.37	12.31	1411.20	10.14	45.94	2.84

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The above table 4.4 studies the financial performance of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The total central government release of funds was 35974.64 crores in 2015-16 and it has increased to 62421.90 crores by 2018-19. Out of the total central release under this scheme, 30890.96 crores were given as wages to the workers during 2015-16, and it increased to 47310.07 crores in 2018-19. There is no significant change in administration expenditure as a percentage of total MGNREGS expenditure, which ranges from 4% to 5% from 2015-16 to 2018-19.



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4.5 Progress of MGNREGS in Telangana

Under this heading, the progress of the scheme is assessed based on the aspects of the approved labor budget for the scheme, person-days generated so far, SC and ST community people receiving work in the scheme, women person days out of the total person days, average wage per day for the person, total households completing the 100 days' work under the scheme, total households working in the scheme, total individuals worked, and participation of differently abled people in the scheme at Telangana state level.

The table 4.5 examines the overall performance of the MGNREGS in Telangana state. The budget approved for the scheme during 2015-16 is 1356.6 lakh and it has decreased to 1200 lakhs by 2019-20. There has been a decrease in the budget approvals of the scheme during the last five financial years. The person-days generated in the scheme range between 108 and 141 from 2015-16 to 2017-18, which states that the person-days generated in Telangana are less than India's. There is a marginal increase in the average wages received under the scheme by the workers, i.e., from 127.09 in 2015-16 to 148.24 in the 2018-19 financial year. The differently abled people's participation in the scheme has decreased by 64286 people in 2105-16, and it has declined to 56440 people in 2018-19.

Table 4.5: Progress of MGNREGS in Telangana

Year	Approved Labor Budget	Person-days Generated so far	SC person days % as of total person days	ST person days % as of total person days	Women Person days out of Total (%)	Average Wage rate per day per person (Rs.)	Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	Total Households Worked	Total Individuals Worked	Differently abled persons worked
2015-2016	1356.6	141.78	24.2	17.02	60.77	127.09	4,17,861	25.65	45.76	64286
2016-2017	1000	108.219	22.64	18.26	59.87	138.8	1,75,540	25.6	44.28	61443
2017-2018	1200	114.773	22.74	17.72	61.46	139.78	2,03,533	25.33	43.44	59069
2018-2019	1300	115.444	22.38	17.41	62.76	148.24	2,10,983	25.06	42.13	56440
2019-2020	1200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

4.6 Work Progress under the MGNREGS in Telangana

The work that has been done in the programme has been analysed based on the aspects related to the number of GPs with nil expenditure, total number of works taken up, the number of ongoing works in the scheme, the number of works completed so far, percentage of normal expenditure, and the percentage of category B workers who worked under the scheme at Telangana level.

Table 4.6: Progress of the work under the MGNREGS Scheme in Telangana

Year	Number of GPs with NIL exp	Total No. of Works Taken up	Number of Ongoing Works	Number of Completed Works	% Of NRM Exp	% Of Category B Works
2015-16	272	14.95	12.33	2,62,060	75.4	46.36
2016-17	230	22.32	9.16	13,15,926	58.66	35.99
2017-18	66	14.32	9.99	4,33,218	60.15	34.43
2018-19	101	13.83	9.78	4,05,063	69.65	42.62
2019-20	7,49	9.78	9.78	0	0	39.15

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

According to Table 4.6, the total number of works taken up in the scheme as a percentage of total work in Telangana is high, 22.32 percent in 2016-17, and it is lower at 13.83 percent in 2018-19. The total number of GPs with nil expenditure on MGNREGS has increased from 272 GPs in 2015-16 to 749 GPs in the 2019-20 financial year. Similarly, the number of completed works in Telangana is high, with 1315926 in 2016-17 and a low of 262060 in 2015-16.



4.7 Financial Performance of MGNREGS in Telangana

The financial performance of the scheme has been discussed based on several aspects of MGNREGS. They are the total central release of expenditure, total availability of expenditure, percent of resources utilized, wages provided under the scheme, total administration expenditure in the scheme, and percentage of administration expenditure in total expenditure on MGNREGS at Telangana level.

Table 4.7: Financial Performance of the MGNREGS Scheme in Telangana

Table with 9 columns: Year, Total center release, Total Availability, Total Exp [In Cr], Percentage Utilization, Wages, Material (%), Total Adm Expenditure, Admin Exp (%). Rows show data for years 2015-16 to 2019-20.

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

The table 4.7 reveals the financial performance of the MGNREGS in Telangana state. The total central government release for the implementation of the MGNREGS in Telangana was 182485 lakhs in 2015-16, and it has marginally increased to 295817 lakhs in 2018-19. The total expenditure on the scheme's implementation is high at 120.07 crores in 2015-16 and it is low at 87.75 crores in 2016-17. The wages distributed to the workers under the scheme in Telangana range from 1.47 crores to 1.84 crores during the period of the first four financial years in the table.

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